

is to be available at a price higher than that on which it is being made available in developed countries of the world;

(b) whether power generation by Cogentrix Power Plant will be costlier as compared to the cost of power generation in other Asian nations;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the outcome of comparative study conducted in respect of power tariff in the hydro-electricity, thermal and atomic power at the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). The tariff of a generating company, whether foreign or Indian whose financial packages are approved after March 1992, shall be fixed in accordance with the Government of India Tariff Notification dated 30.3.1992. (as amended). The tariff of the Mangalore Power Project (Cogentrix), on its completion would also be fixed as per the norms agreed to in the PPA within the ceiling parameters of the tariff notification. The tariff of a power station is dependent upon its completed cost, type price and source of fuels, taxes and duties and year of completion and hence no one to one comparison between two power plants or power plants of one country with that of other country could be possible.

(d) The tariff of the present Central Sector, Hydro-Electric Thermal & Nuclear Power Stations are as under:

		Paise/Kwh
Hydro-electric	- Varies between	42 to 211
Thermal	- Varies between	58 to 214
Nuclear	- Varies between	57 to 207.

[English]

Expert Group

19. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expert group appointed by the Planning Commission to find out the number and ratio of the poor has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the said group;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Main Recommendations in the report are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). The report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor has been circulated for a more informed debate on the issue of poverty. The Report has also been sent to several eminent experts on poverty for their comments. The recommendations of the Expert Group with regard to the estimates of poverty are being studied and will be finalized for the Ninth Plan.

STATEMENT

Main Recommendations of The Expert Group on Proportion and Number of Poor

(1) The Poverty Line recommended by the Task Force on projection of minimum needs and effective consumption demand, namely, a monthly per capita total expenditure of Rs.49.09 (rural) and Rs.56.64 (urban) at 1973-74 prices, be adopted as the base line at all India level. This was anchored in the recommended per capita daily intake of 2400 calories per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per day in urban areas with reference to the consumption pattern as obtained in 1973-74. The Group has further recommended that these norms may be adopted uniformly for all States.

(2) State specific poverty line should be estimated as follows : The standardised commodity basket corresponding to the poverty line at the national level should be valued at the prices prevailing in each State in the base year, i.e. 1973-74. For updating poverty line to the current prices in a given year, a State-specific consumer price index is needed. For this purpose, the observed all-India consumption pattern of the 20 to 30 percent of the population around the poverty line in 1973-74 should constitute the State-specific weighting diagram.

(3) It is necessary that the deflators chosen should satisfy three main requirements : (i) they should be State-specific, consistent with the adoption of State-Specific poverty lines on the basis of State-Specific base year prices, (ii) they should reflect, as closely as possible, prices relevant to the consumption baskets of those around the poverty line, and (iii) the data base for the construction of the deflators should be periodically available, comparable across States and consistent.

(4) The Group came to the conclusion that it would be most suitable to rely on the disaggregated commodity

indices from Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) to update the rural poverty line and a simple average of suitably weighted commodity indices of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPIW) and Consumer Price Index on Urban Non-manual employees (CPINM) for updating the urban poverty line.

(5) Given the updated State-wise poverty lines and the corresponding size distribution of the per capita consumption expenditure (PCCE) of National Sample Survey (NSS), the number of poor as a percentage of total population or the poverty ratio should be calculated separately for rural and urban areas for each State. The absolute number of poor in each State. The absolute number of poor in each State in rural and urban area should be calculated by applying the poverty ratio to the estimated population as given by the Registrar General of Census. The all-India (rural and urban) poverty ratio should be derived as a ratio of the aggregate number of State-wise poor persons to the total all-India (rural and urban) population. The implicit all-India poverty line may be worked out, given the all-India poverty ratio and the all-India distribution of population by expenditure classes obtained from the same NSS survey.

(6) The poverty line and poverty ratio in respect of States, where availability of adequate data is a constraint, may be assigned from neighbouring areas on the basis of consideration of physical contiguity of areas and similarity of economic profile as indicated by other economic parameters.

(7) The NSS consumption surveys - which are carried out every 5 years yielding State level estimates of mean per capita consumption expenditure and the size distribution of population around the mean, should be the basic source of information for estimating, on quinquennial basis, the proportion of the population below the poverty line and changes therein. Calculation of poverty line and poverty ratios following the recommended method should be worked out for the years 1977-78, 1983 and 1987-88 and onwards as and when the State-wise results of quinquennial NSS rounds of comprehensive household surveys are available.

(8) The Group favours exclusive reliance on the NSS data on household consumption expenditure (without any adjustment) for estimating the poverty ratio by States and in rural and urban areas.

Drinking Water

20. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item published in

"Hindustan Times" dated October 19, 1996 regarding cases of deaths, diseases and disability as a result of drinking water from hand-pumps and also due to drinking of piped water under the scheme funded by the Centre;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Union Government during 1994, 1995 and 1996; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). *Arsenic* : 4636 cases of arsenic dermatosis have been reported from West Bengal upto August, 1996. Rs. 98.10 crore have been approved to provide safe drinking water in the affected areas of West Bengal during 1994-96.

Fluorosis : An amount of Rs.193.95 crores as Central assistance has been released during 1992-96 to various States to undertake measures to provide safe drinking water in the habitations affected by excess flouride in drinking water.

Further Rs.1.64 crore has also been released to the States to establish water quality testing laboratories to check and ensure supply of safe drinking water.

[Translation]

Power Generation in U.P.

21. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of electricity in Uttar Pradesh by the year 2000 AD;

(b) whether required electricity is to be met by the local power plants;

(c) the quantum of electricity produced by the present power plants;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the demand of electricity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The 15th Electric Power Survey Report projects the total requirement of electricity in Uttar Pradesh to be of the order of 52.4 billion units by the year 2000 AD.

(b) Power requirement of U.P. would be met from its share from Central Generating companies and power plants located in the State.